

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02560 241603Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 OMB-01 FRB-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

IO-14 SAB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /163 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6332

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T CAIRO 2560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG GW

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S VISIT TO EGYPT

1. SUMMARY. CHANCELLOR BRANDT, ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH LEVEL FRG DELEGATION, PAID STATE VISIT TO EGYPT FROM APRIL 21 TO APRIL 24. FRG EMBOFF TOLD US THAT TRIP WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY AS PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE AND AS SUCH WAS A SUCCESS. SOLE CONCRETE RESULT WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL COMMISSION AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TO STUDY COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL FIELDS. END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCELLOR'S PROGRAM INCLUDED PRIVATE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT ON APRIL 21, 22, AND 23. OFFICIAL DELEGATION MET IN PLENARY SESSION TWICE. SADAT DECORATED BRANDT WITH "ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC" PRIOR TO HIS BANQUET FOR FRG DELEGATION ON APRIL 21. ON APRIL 22, CHANCELLOR MET ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MAHMUD RIAD AND WAS HIS GUEST AT WORKING LUNCH ATTENDED BY AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO ARAB LEAGUE. ON APRIL 23, FRG DELEGATION WAS TAKEN TO SEE SUEZ CITY AND BAR LEV LINE. BRANDT HELD PRESS CONFERENCE SAME DAY AND HOSTED BANQUET FOR EGYPTIAN SIDE AT WHICH SPEECHES WERE EXCHANGED. CHANCELLOR LEFT CAIRO AS SCHEDULED AT 0900 LOCAL APRIL 24.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02560 241603Z

3. THERE WILL BE NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, PRESS "STATEMENTS" HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY GOE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND, WE UNDERSTAND, BY FRG. THIS FORMULA WAS ADOPTED AT FRG REQUEST, SINCE NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN ISSUED FOLLOWING CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO ISRAEL. THE "STATEMENT" ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF BILATERAL COMMISSION AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL FOR STUDY OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND SAYS THE TWO SIDES WILL SIGN AN INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PRESIDENT SADAT WILL VISIT GERMANY AT TIME TO BE FIXED.

4. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBOFF CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH VISIT, THE TWO SIDES AGREED AT OUTSET NOT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. THE BILATERAL COMMISSION WILL CONVENE IN BONN IN MAY TO DISCUSS DIMENSIONS OF POSSIBLE FRG AID TO EGYPT. WHEN FRAMEWORK IS ESTABLISHED, DELEGATION FROM PRIVATE FRG INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION WILL COME TO EGYPT, PROBABLY IN SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER, TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES SET OUT BY COMMISSION.

5. REPORT APPEARING IN AHRAM APRIL 24 ALLEGING THAT AGREEMENT ON QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT IS TO BE SIGNED "SHORTLY" IS ENTIRELY IN ERROR, ACCORDING TO FRG EMBOFF. GERMANS HAVE COMPLETED INITIAL FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ARE NOW EMBARKING ON SECOND STUDY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF 11.3 MILLION D.M. LOAN OF LAST FEBRUARY. FRG IS CLEARLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS COLOSSAL PROJECT, BUT CONTINUING GOE INTEREST WAS EVIDENCED BY INSISTENCE OF POWER MINISTER AHMAD SULTAN THAT HE BE APPOINTED HEAD OF MISSION OF HONOR. MIN RECONSTRUCTION OSMAN REPORTEDLY HAD SOUGHT POST FOR HIMSELF, PRESUMABLY TO BE IN STRATEGIC POSITION TO PUSH FOR FRG AID FOR CANAL ZONE RECONSTRUCTION.

6. FRG EMBOFF TOLD US EGYPTIANS DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF ACQUIRING MILITARY EQUIPMENT BUT DID BRING UP LINKAGE BETWEEN EUROPEAN SECURITY AND SECURITY IN ME. HE SAID LATTER POINT WILL BE RAISED AT COMMISSION MEETING IN MAY, BUT ADDED CHANCELLOR HAD TOLD SADAT THAT DISAGREEMENT AMONG EUROPEANS WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR TO KEEP IN MIND IN THIS CONNECTION.

7. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBOFF, SADAT OBLIQUELY RAISED QUESTION OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 02560 241603Z

FRG PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS. BRANDT REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH FRG WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER CERTAIN GUARANTEES AFTER BASIC SETTLEMENT IS ACHIEVED, HE BELIEVES SECRETARY KISSINGER SHOULD BE GIVEN A FREE FIELD FOR HIS CURRENT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT. BRANDT REITERATED TWO OR THREE TIMES TO SADAT THAT HE SAW NO UTILITY IN GERMAN PARTICIPATION AT THIS STAGE IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THERE HAD BEEN NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF RES.

242 IN NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF BRANDT PRESS CONFERENCE, FRG EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IN INITIAL PRESENTATION TO SADAT ON APRIL 21 BRANDT HAD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FRG SUPPORT FOR "SC RESOLUTION OF NOVEMBER 1967".

8. APPARENTLY GOE ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALISTS DID NOT DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES DURING VISIT. LAST MINUTE SCHEDULE CHANGES WERE ROUTINE. CHANCELLOR'S LUGGAGE WAS DELIVERED TO HOTEL HOURS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT CAIRO AIRPORT. MORE SERIOUSLY, ALTHOUGH GERMANS HAD SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT CHANCELLOR DID NOT WISH TO VISIT BATTLEFIELDS EAST OF CANAL OR MONUMENT TO UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN SUEZ CITY, MOTORCADE WENT TO BOTH THESE SITES AND MINISTER OF WAR HAD LAID ON CEREMONIES AT BOTH PLACES.

9. COMMENT: SOLE CONCRETE RESULT OF VISIT WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL MINISTERIAL COMMISSION. NEVERTHELESS, FRG EMBASSY CONSIDERS TRIP SUCCESSFUL IN THAT IT WAS CONCEIVED BY FRG CHIEFLY AS PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE. FRG EMBOFF REMARKED IN PASSING THAT VISIT WAS, IN FACT, INTENDED MORE AS PLOY TO IMPROVE CHANCELLOR'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION THAN AS A SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC EFFORT AIMED AT PRODUCING CONCRETE RESULTS.
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